Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for selecting an ~~optimized controlled~~ extended release dosage form ~~for administration to a patient such that the dosage form will have a predetermined drug release profile *in vivo*, the method~~ comprising:

(a) preparing a plurality of different candidate dosage forms each comprising~~ed of~~ at least one ~~a~~ biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer and a pharmacologically active agent incorporated therein;

(b) obtaining ~~the~~ an *in vitro* drug release profile for each candidate dosage form in an aqueous medium ~~in~~ using a ~~USP~~ disintegration teste~~r~~;

(c) comparing the *in vitro* drug release profiles obtained in (b), and determining which of the *in vitro* drug release profiles correlates most closely with a desired *in vivo* drug release profile; and

(d) selecting the dosage form of (c) ~~having the determined *in vitro* drug release profile~~ to develop for administration to a patient.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate dosage forms ~~are all comprised of~~comprise the same biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer but differ with respect to the amount or molecular weight thereof.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate dosage forms ~~all~~ contain the same pharmacologically active agent but differ with respect to the amount thereof.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulosic polymers, polyalkylene oxides, naturally occurring hydrophilic polymers, crosslinked polyacrylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer is a cellulosic polymer.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the cellulosic polymer is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer is a polyalkylene oxide.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein the polyalkylene oxide is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene oxide), polyethylene glycol, poly(ethylene oxide)-polypropylene oxide copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the polyalkylene oxide is poly(ethylene oxide).

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer is a naturally occurring hydrophilic polymer.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein the naturally occurring hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen, fibronectin, albumins, globulins, fibrinogen, fibrin, thrombin, aminated polysaccharides, guar gum, xanthan gum, carageenan, alginates, pectin, activated polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

12. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the active agent is water insoluble or sparingly soluble in water.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the active agent is water soluble.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein drug particles of the active agent are encased in protective vesicles.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein the protective vesicles are liposomes.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 15, wherein drug particles of the active agent are coated with an enteric coating.

17. **(Currently amended)** A method for delivering a pharmacologically active agent to ~~the upper gastrointestinal tract of~~ a patient over an extended period of time ~~while minimizing delivery to the lower gastrointestinal tract and colon~~, the method comprising:

~~orally~~ administering to a patient, in whom the fed mode has been induced, an extended ~~sustained~~ release oral dosage form comprising ~~of~~ a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmacologically active agent incorporated in a matrix of at least one biocompatible, hydrophilic polymer that:

(a) swells upon absorption ~~in the presence of~~ water ~~in~~ from gastric fluid such that the size of the dosage form is sufficiently increased to provide gastric retention ~~of the dosage form~~ in the stomach of ~~a~~ the patient in whom the fed mode has been induced;

(b) gradually erodes within the ~~gastrointestinal tract~~stomach over a determinable time period; and

(c) releases the active agent throughout the determinable time period,

wherein the dosage form is ~~optimized~~ selected by subjecting the dosage form to a disintegration test ~~for an extended period of time such that~~and determining that the dosage form ~~that~~ has an *in vitro* active agent release profile that correlates ~~to~~ most closely with a desired *in vivo* active agent release profile ~~for the dosage form~~.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage form erodes at a rate that is faster than the rate at which the dosage form swells.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein at least 40% of the active agent is retained within the matrix one hour after ingestion of the dosage form.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 19, wherein 60 to 80 % of the active agent remains in the matrix one hour after ingestion.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 20, wherein at least 85% of the active agent is released from the matrix within six to eight hours after ingestion.

22. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 17, wherein the active agent is an anti-microbial agents.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein the anti-microbial agent is ciprofloxacin.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein the active agent is calcium carbonate.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein the active agent is one of an ACE inhibitor, an angiotensin II antagonist, or a beta-adrenergic blocking agent in combination with a diuretic.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein the dosage form is administered once daily.

27. **(New)** The method of claim 12, wherein the active agent is ciprofloxacin.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 12, wherein the active agent is omeprazole.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 13, wherein the active agent is gabapentin.

30. **(New)** The method of claim 13, wherein the active agent is metformin hydrochloride.

31. **(New)** The method of claim 17, wherein the active agent is water soluble.

32. **(New)** The method of claim 31, wherein the active agent is gabapentin.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 31, wherein the active agent is metformin hydrochloride.

34. **(New)** The method of claim 17, wherein the active agent is insoluble or sparingly soluble in water.

35. **(New)** The method of claim 34, wherein the active agent is omeprazole.